

NEWS RELEASE



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Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

Kernan Awards Grant to Fort Wayne's BFGoodrich Tire Manufacturing Plant

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Gov. Joe Kernan announced today that the Indiana Department of Workforce Development has awarded a \$200,000 grant to Fort Wayne's BFGoodrich Tire Manufacturing Plant to train 75 employees.

The Fort Wayne production facility is an operating division of Michelin North America, Inc., and was established in 1961. The facility manufactures up to 25,000 tires per day and employs over 1,200 people.

"Keeping up with changing technology is vital in today's global marketplace and upgrading the skill levels of our workforce to meet these changing demands is essential," said Kernan. "BF Goodrich recognizes how important this is in order to stay on the cutting edge of technology and remain competitive. We are glad to partner with them to improve the skills of their workforce."

Currently, the plant is investing in new equipment to produce larger tire sizes. This highly technical equipment is controlled by computers and other digital logic devices and integrates mechanical and electrical systems. The training will provide workers with the skills needed to properly install, modify, set-up, and maintain this equipment and will consist of 160 hours in a variety of technical courses. The training program will result in state issued certificates of technical achievement in advanced manufacturing.

"BFGoodrich is appreciative of the support that the State of Indiana is providing to help maintain the skill levels of our employees," stated Alan Candioto, personnel manager at the facility. "This is an investment in our people and in the future of the Fort Wayne plant."

All Indiana businesses are eligible to apply for Incumbent Worker Training grants. The grants are designed to create a world-class workforce in Indiana, through continuous improvement to the skill levels of Hoosier workers.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this or other DWD programs, contact Jeff Harris at 317/232-3396 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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